

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03828 01 OF 02 081603Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 PA-02 MMO-04 /025 W

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P R 081554Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6997

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03828

USIAC

ICC FOR DEXHEIMER

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SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL AFFAIR: INVITATION OF SENATORS
AND CONGRESSMEN TO STUTTGART MAY 8-10

AMONG THE MANY GERMAN EVENTS THIS YEAR HONORING THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL IS ONE IN STUTTGART, CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, WHICH WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY COMMEMORATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BYRNES ADDRESS WHICH FIRST INDICATED UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR A REUNITED GERMANY UNDER A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. IN THE SPEECH SECRETARY BYRNES ALSO OPPOSED SOVIET CLAIMS FOR TEN BILLION DOLLARS IN REPARATIONS AND PROMISED THAT "WE ARE NOT WITHDRAWING... AS LONG AS AN OCCUPATION FORCE IS REQUIRED IN GERMANY, THE ARMY OF THE U.S. WILL BE PART OF THAT OCCUPATION FORCE."

2. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG'S CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN ITS ANNUAL "AMERICA WEEK" ON THE WEEKEND OF MAY 8-9. A NUMBER OF SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN EUROPE WILL BE, OR HAVE BEEN, INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN SPEAKER. IN ADDITION, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INVITE AND HOST A DELEGATION OF PERHAPS HALF A
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PAGE 02 BONN 03828 01 OF 02 081603Z

DOZEN U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. IN SPITE OF ADVICE

FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL, EMBASSY AND USIS THAT THE STATE'S APPROACH TO THESE CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS BE MADE THROUGH THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND EMBASSY, THE SPONSORS INSIST ON DEALING DIRECTLY AND HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT IN ASKING MISSION ADVICE AS TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION.

3. WITH EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL CONCURRENCE, USIS HAS AGREED WITH THE SPONSORS TO PASS ON TO USIA THE GENERAL INVITATION. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WISHES THAT VARIOUS SENATORIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES BE QUERIED WHETHER THE OFFICIALS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO THE MAY 8-10 WEEKEND. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WOULD THEN MAKE THE INVITATION DIRECTLY. IT HOPES FOR AN INDICATION OF INTERESTED SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN BY COB MONDAY, MAR 15.

4. UNFORTUNATELY BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IS ABLE ONLY TO ASSURE THE FULL COST OF TRAVEL IN GERMANY AND OF EXPENSES WHILE HERE MAY 8-10. APPARENTLY IT HOPES TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AFTER HAVING SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST.

5. THUS THE MOST REALISTIC APPROACH MIGHT BE TO IDENTIFY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES WHO WILL BE IN EUROPE

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PAGE 01 BONN 03828 02 OF 02 081601Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03828

AT THAT TIME, AND WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE
STUTTGART EVENT.

6. IT MAY ALSO BE THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS FROM
SOUTH CAROLINA, OR OTHERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN
ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER SECRETARY BYRNES, MIGHT BE
PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. MAY 8 AND 9 WILL BE LARGELY
CEREMONIAL. MAY 10 WILL PERMIT HOSTED TOURS OR
SIGHTSEEING IN STUTTGART (HEAVY INDUSTRY INCLUDES
ELECTRONICS AND MERCEDES BENZ) OR BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
(WHICH INCLUDES THE BLACK FOREST).

7. IT MAY BE ADDED THAT THE MISSION ATTACHES NO
PARTICULAR POLITICAL PRIORITY TO CONGRESSIONAL ATTEN-
DENCE AT THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AFFAIR. THIS IS,
HOWEVER, A SINCERE MANIFESTATION BY ONE OF THE FEDERAL
STATES TO COMMEMORATE BOTH THE BICENTENNIAL AND THE
ANNIVERSARY OF AN AMERICAN POLICY WHICH MANY GERMANS
BELIEVE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S
SUBSEQUENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. SINCE THE STATE CLEARLY
ATTACHES GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO CONGRESSIONAL PARTICI-
PATION, IT IS FELT ENTIRELY PROPER TO FACILITATE THE
EXTENDING OF SUCH INVITATIONS.
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